

JOANNE BROCHU – COUNCILLOR - RATEPAYER - CANDIDATE– VILLAGE OF ELBOW

I was very fortunate to grow up here in Elbow, my hometown. After I graduated high school, I moved away for several years, continuing my education, entering the work force and raising a family. After retiring from farming/ranching I moved back to Elbow in 2015 with my family. I still operate a small farm with a small herd of cattle and a few horses. Elbow has always been very special to me and a great place to call home. Realizing the many opportunities for growth and development and my interest in small town politics, I ran for Council in 2016. I have since served 8 years and I am seeking re-election for our 2024 fall election because I know I will work hard to see our community thrive.

There are a few main reasons I feel I need to remain at the council table. Elbow has a few shared services with our surrounding communities. I am a huge proponent of working with our surrounding communities while at the same time, I am devoted to making sure that the ratepayers of Elbow are paying for only their fair share of such services and not subsidizing the broader community or surrounding communities. These shared services include our water supply, the lagoon and our firefighting services. While we all need these services and infrastructure and we are all better off as a whole working with each other, the work needs to be done to know the numbers in detail and make sure all users are paying for such equally.

In regard to growth and development I stand for making smart, long-term decisions that will continue to make Elbow stand out as a Community everyone wants to call home. I stand for finding the right balance between recreational properties and housing, growing our business community and making sure we always remain an attractive community year-round for families, retirees and seniors. I vow to work harder in the area of Economic Development and seeking opportunities that make a great fit right here in Elbow.

2025 is a re-assessment year and this will affect all our Ratepayers. It is important that we practice frugality, are budget-conscious and do our best in adjusting the mill rate lower if needed, to reflect an assessment increase in property tax revenues. If elected my experience and knowledge with budgeting will be at the table.

In the past we have learned lots on the importance of succession planning to make sure the Village continues to operate smoothly during times of change with both administrative staff and public works staff. We need to continue working towards a succession plan now and in the future. It is also important we continue to empower our existing team of employees, recognize their skills, knowledge and expertise that they bring to the table. Taking into consideration of such when determining salaries, along with being budget savvy, are all undertakings I have experience with and am well aware of when sitting at the table representing our Ratepayers.

On behalf of Council, I am currently working on striking together a health committee for the Village of Elbow and surrounding communities. This committee, comprised of members from each community and 2 Registered Nurses will focus on the possibility of bringing a Doctor and/or Nurse Practitioner into our community a certain number of times per month, the long-term needs of our ratepayers to remain in our community and explore other opportunities such as having blood testing right in our Village a certain number of times per month.

I feel it is important to be upfront and honest in letting you know that as long as I have my health and can travel I do plan to enjoy the warmer climate for several weeks during the year. I will certainly stay tuned to what is happening in my Community and attend those meetings while away, via video. I was gone last year for seven weeks and attended every meeting while away.

I do stay in the know by being involved in community activities and keeping in contact with fellow Council members, Administrative staff and Ratepayers. I was immersed in the grant application that was successful in obtaining the funds for our recent Harbor Golf Community Center along with sitting on the build committee and continue my work for the HGCC by sitting on the facilities committee (on behalf of council). I am a member of the Elbow Parks and Recreation Board and Chair of the Lakeshore Stampede Rodeo Committee.

I keep my ear to the ground and stay tuned in at the local level and Provincial level. When attending Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association meetings and conferences, I make sure our voices are heard when needed, at the higher levels of government. I am eager to learn about the new initiatives and programming brought forward both Provincially and Federally that will benefit our Community while also networking with others abroad to learn from them and their experiences on items or issues we have in common.

I ask for your vote in the 2024 Municipal Election for Elbow and I ask that you all vote! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Cheers,

Joanne Brochu